Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy

Meeting of the UNCTAD Research Partnership Platform

10th SESSION

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Wednesday, 10 July, 2019

UNCTAD-ZHAW Joint Research Project:
Digitalization, Competition and Consumer Protection

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Agenda

I. About us
II. Background
III. Objective
IV. Plan
I. About us

ZHAW School of Management and Law
One of the leading Swiss business schools: scientifically grounded, interdisciplinary, and strongly oriented to real-world business practices.

Center for Competition and Commercial Law
Focuses on selected aspects of international commercial law at the intersection of business and law. We facilitate cooperation and build networks with premier academic and business partners.
II. Background

The rise of digitalization

Are the current competition law enforcement tools fit to deal with these issues?
New developments

II. Background

Anti-competitive Agreements
• Geoblocking
• Price algorithms

Abuse of Market Power
• Big data
• Network effects

Merger Control
• Conditions for review
• Market definition
II. Background

Chances and Challenges for competition and consumers

How digitalization could be inclusive and benefit developing countries

Equal opportunities for all?

How digitalization could harm consumers

Less quality, less choice, less privacy and less innovation?
III. Objective

1. Raise critical awareness of the opportunities and challenges arising from digitalization.

2. Provide policy recommendations to promote competition in and inclusiveness of the digital economy, and ensure that consumers are well protected.
IV. Plan

Phase 1
Identify the challenges and developments in the digital world in relation to competition and consumer protection.

Phase 2
Identify how competition and consumer protection authorities deal with the new challenges.

Phase 3
Evaluate the findings and develop policy recommendations for competition and consumer protection authorities, especially in developing countries.

The findings are presented in an UNCTAD - ZHAW joint publication during the 8th UN Review Conference.
Draft Outline of the Publication

I. Introduction

II. E-commerce, competition policy and consumer protection

III. Digital economy, big data and competition

IV. Digital economy and consumer data protection

V. Online platforms: Regulate or break up?

VI. Regional Solutions to Global Problems: Regional Competition Frameworks
### IV. Plan

#### Timeline

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<td>Presentation of the project during the 10th RPP meeting</td>
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<td>December 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for the submission of the first draft of Chapters</td>
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<td>February 2020</td>
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**Launch of the publication for the 8th UN Review Conference in 2020.**
Thank you for your attention!
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